

JAPANESE TRAITS.

QUEER HABITS AND BELIEFS OF AN ORIENTAL PEOPLE.

Japanese Baby Houses—Sleeping on Wooden Pillows—Child Nurses—Buddha in China and Japan—Buddhism vs. Shintoism.

JAPANESE children are amusing, says Eli Perkins in the New York Sun. As the house is too small to live in during the day, the children all swarm into the street. Japanese children never think of playing in the house; there isn't room. The house is a doll's house, with no chimney and no fire except a half pint of charcoal burning in a little earthen bowl called a habachi. There are no beds, chairs or tables. They all sit and lie on rice straw mats on the floor as primitively as a Comanche Indian family. The father and mother have a head rest of wood, but the children lie around like kittens. "Don't that hard piece of wood hurt your neck?" I asked.

"No. Our necks are strong. We are used to it; but, see, there are five pieces of paper over the wood."

In the morning the babies are strapped to the backs of the children and turned loose into the street. Swarms of children can be seen any time in the streets romping and racing, each with a baby strapped to its back. In the midst of



HOW JAPANESE GIRLS SLEEP.

the most exciting games the babies will be sound asleep, while the bigger brother or sister will be running and screaming with laughter. As soon as a baby can walk its mother straps a big doll to its back. This is a sign of manhood or womanhood, and the baby boy is as proud of his doll as an American boy is of a pair of fine boots; and a girl—oh, my! I saw a mother one day stirring some barley which she was boiling for the children, and said:

"Why don't your husband help you?"

"Oh, he is too busy."

"What is he doing?"

"He is flying a kite."

Those children were laughing and playing with babies on their backs when I snapped my kodak on them. This so frightened them that their faces took on a look of alarm.

The Christopher Columbus, George Washington and St. Patrick of Japan is Buddha, often called the Daibutsu. His statues are everywhere. They confront you like the Madonnas of Raphael in Italy. There are five colossal bronze statues of this patron saint in Japan, distributed as follows: Kio, 53 feet high; Nara, 53 feet high; Kamakura, 49 feet high; Hyogo, 48 feet high; and Tokyo, 21 feet high. Besides, he is in every Buddhist temple and Shinto shrine in Japan. This statue represents Buddha in a Shinto shrine in Tokyo. Underneath him are the Shinto saints or ancestors dressed up like Japanese dogs. He is always the same benign-looking old woman, with earrings and a shining jewel in his forehead. He seems to say to himself constantly, "I am perfection." Many of these statues were cast from six hundred to a thousand years ago. The children play hide-and-go seek around them and climb up to see them, and the birds build nests in poor old Buddha's ears and nostrils. No one seems to have any conception of what Buddha is for. He is really the Sphinx of Japan.

When I asked N. Amemori, the noted Japanese writer and linguist, what was the difference between the Buddhism and Shintoism he said:

"Buddhism is a philosophical religion—a very philosophical religion. It is so philosophical that the common people can't understand it, and I can't explain it. It personifies all virtues, and people pray for their virtues." It is a religion. Buddha is always worshiped in a temple, as a personification of virtue.

"And Shintoism, what is that?" I asked.

"Shintoism means shrine worship. We don't have Shinto temples. They are shrines or mausolea. A Shinto shrine is really a burying ground—a place where distinguished ancestors are buried. We go to the Shinto shrine as your



FUNNY JAPANESE CHILDREN.

people go to Greenwood Cemetery, with a prayer upon their lips, it is not a religion; it is ancestor veneration. You have this same sentiment when you observe Decoration Day. I have seen Americans take off their hats at the first sight of an American flag in Tokyo. A Shinto shrine is filled with monuments

to illustrious warriors, teachers and poets. The Shoguns built their own shrines before they died. They are at Nikko, Tokio, and all over Japan. When the people enter these beautiful shrines and stand in the presence of the distinguished dead, they reverentially take off their hats, as you do at the tomb of Washington."

"You put Buddha in the Shinto shrines too?" I said.

"Yes, Buddha is always there. The Japanese and Chinese all respect Buddha. He was a good ancestor. Many blunder by calling the mausolea and shrines at Nikko temples. They are shrines like the tombs of the Ming Emperors at Peking. To illustrate: Before the death of the second Shogun of the Tokugawa dynasty, he built in Nikko a magnificent shrine to his father Ieyasu. His father's body was carried from Tokyo in great pomp, attended by the living Shogun and a representative from the Mikado at Kioto. It is simply a grand monument to the Tokugawa family. I hear the Vanderbilts and Goulds and other rich families in America have built mausolea or shrines in Greenwood and Woodlawn. The Tokugawa family after a while became so great that they didn't consider it any honor to even have Buddha in their mausolea. In fact, the family finally removed the Buddhist gongs, bells, prayer books and other paraphernalia."

"Do the people worship the mythological statues in the Buddhist temples?"

"Yes, the ignorant do. They pay money to the priests for the privilege of praying. After praying they throw wads of paper, which they have chewed up in their mouths, at the statue of Buddha. If these wads stick they think their prayers are answered. If they fall



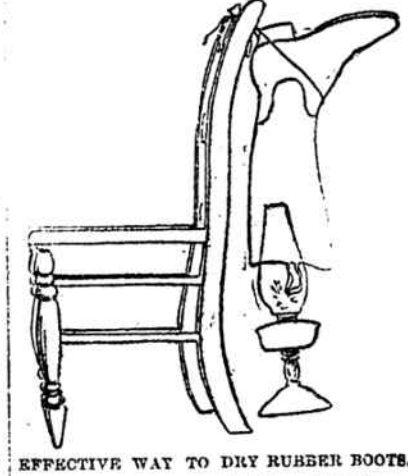
A JAPANESE STATUE OF BUDDHA.

there wild-eyed and swaying like the wolf or bear in the zoological garden. Every worshiper imagines that the old horse contains the soul of some dead aunt, uncle or father.

How to Dry Rubber Boots.

Rubber boots which have become wet inside, either from exposure or perspiration are dangerous to wear until dried out, and this is often a difficult task; may wear cork soles which can be taken out and dried, others fill their boots with hot coals at night, and others shake hot gravel in them to dry them out, but all these plans are only partly successful.

The illustration presents another plan which has the merit of being quickly accomplished, effective and new. A lamp is set on the floor, the boot is tied to the back of a chair, low enough so that the chimney extends well up into the boot leg, the lamp is lighted and turned up. The hot air goes just where it is needed and dries the boots.—American Agriculturist.



EFFECTIVE WAY TO DRY RUBBER BOOTS.

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Niss Adelaide Uter is Clerk of the United States Circuit Court at Kansas City, Mo.; Miss M. Lathan is Clerk of the United States District Court at Springfield, Mo.; Mrs. M. M. Kingland is a Commissioner of the United States Circuit Court in St. Louis (where Phoebe Cousins served as United States Marshal); and a woman holds by election the office of County Clerk of Jasper County, Missouri.

A Chicago widow has sued a man for \$50,000 for having told her husband to jump in the river, which he did.

THE REALM OF FASHION.

WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW THEY MAKE IT.

The Time For Caps—Be Careful to Avoid Giving a Darwinian Suggestion.



HERE we are again at the time for caps, and a modish one is shown, back and front, in these pictures. It is a double cape with embroidered trimmings. The model was in gray cloth with trimmings of black velvet and ribbons. The double cape is pointed at the back and goes down to the edge of the pelerine, diminishing in breadth. The V has a double collar, quilted and sewn back onto the U, which is fastened in front. The edge of the cape is ornamented by a ruche of scalloped cloth. The collar is edged with black velvet. The cloth V is trimmed with velvet ornaments which are seen on. You will observe that it has no dangling ribbons. That is a whim already by gone. It is doubtful if under any circumstances the fashion of a brace of ribbons



A LUXE BON GOWN.

is in yellow satin, front and sleeves of white crepe, and ribbon ruche to correspond with the satin. The skirt in front is edged with a double flounce of point d'esprit tulle, and the flounce is set off with a deep collar of cream lace.

or a long rope of beads depending from the point of the bodice in the back, is graceful. Possibly, when the ribbon or bead rope floats off on the descending wave of the train it looks well, but when the train is held up and close around the knees, and, as often happens, the rope of beads escapes and hangs alone and forlorn from the prominent drapery, when it floats all by itself in the breeze, and the observer getting a profile view of the wearer, sees, oh,



STYLISH DINNER GOWN.

Heaven! daylight between the dependent ornament and the wearer, then what does it look like? Why, nothing but a tail. The fashion might delight a Darwinian's soul, but in the ordinary human the suggestion of monkey ancestry is clearly enough set forth by the general wear without this particular advertisement.



INDOOR GOWN.

The prevailing modes this fall will undoubtedly continue to draw inspiration from the early and late French epochs. For young girls nothing could be more becoming than the empire gown, somewhat modified to suit modern notions. For other persons the Henry II corset, plastron and upper sleeves in four puffs will be much affected.

The very stylish dinner gown pictured in the illustration is in beige cloth, the corsage and border of skirt being embroidered with motives in terra-cotta. A lace bertha is crossed in front and drawn over the hips and tied in a large bow at the back.

This winter ladies who take pleasure in entertaining will dispense their hospitality in the guise of luncheons, which have this advantage that they serve to display the beauty of table linen and service quite as effectively as a ceremonious dinner, but don't cost half as much, and are a great deal more enjoyable. As a rule at these luncheons the gentlemen are conspicuous by their absence, a fact which prompts the hostess to make the affair dainty, delicate and particularly feminine—an arrangement in which or a symphony in pale blue. Gowns should harmonize, at least in the exclusion of all glaring effects. The picture shows a gown suitable for such an occasion in striped velvet, the skirt being finished with a

ruching and the corsage ornamented with a deep lace collar not forming part of the dress, and draped in the graceful manner indicated. The straight collar is also covered with lace. A broad ribbon sash completes the dress. The wide empire belt will be among the season's novelties. It is usually of gold embroidery, and the deep, tight-fitting cuffs are of the same material, meeting the very full upper sleeves at the elbow.

Lace garniture will continue to be very popular for indoor gowns, in the shape of tiny tiaras and broad collars, as shown in the picture. This charming garment, which is in the nature of a tea or reception gown



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is in yellow satin, front and sleeves of white crepe, and ribbon ruche to correspond with the satin. The skirt in front is edged with a double flounce of point d'esprit tulle, and the flounce is set off with a deep collar of cream lace.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Make the home attractive.

Necessity is its own justification.

Nature is the mother of tragedians.

Crumbs saved are pleasures purchased.

It pays to investigate and experiment.

The mind that is unfed is also unfed.

Where there is no hope there can be no endeavor.

Fate never exhausts its resources—nor life its surprises.

Solitude cherishes great virtues, and destroys little ones.

The more perfect the jewel the more deplorable the flaw.

One's greatest cruelty is usually practiced upon one's self.

Happiness is like liquor in its disposition to seek a conductor.

Truly, this world can go on without us, if we would but think so.

It is a rare philosopher who never departs from his own philosophy.

If nature abhors a vacuum she is equally intolerant of a surplus.

There is always room for a man of force, and he makes room for many.

Pride is essential to a noble character, and the love of praise is one of the civilizing elements.

Our estimate of a character always depends much on the manner in which that character affects our own interests and passions.

An undertaker at Louisville, Ky., recently opened a coffin buried sixty years ago, and found the body perfectly preserved.

W. D. Walton, of Petersburg, Va., recently coughed up a minnie ball which was fired into his armpit at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House during the war.

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Something New in Shears.

It is not often that an apparently useful innovation in the art of scissor or shear manufacture is heard of and doubted for that reason we have become acquainted with these indispensable adjuncts to civilization as probably unimprovable instruments. In a new kind of shears which has been brought on the market by an ingenious mechanician, the cutting blades are connected by a capsule, in which a simple lever movement on the closing of the instrument, causes the one blade to be drawn under by the other. The lower cheek then acts as a support, and the upper cheek as a knife, which severs the object on the support. Compared with the orthodox scissors a much greater efficiency is claimed for the new form of shears.—Iron.

It Makes a Difference.

Whether you dose a patient with a quack nostrum or a legitimate, scientific preparation. One who has tried the other builds it up. Dr. Hoxie's Certain Cure for all acute attacks of throat and lungs is a distinguished scientific preparation, and a sure cure. Sold by druggists. See Address A. P. Hoxie, Buffalo, N. Y.

The youngest member of the British House of Commons is twenty-two years of age; its oldest is on the shady side of ninety.

To Young Wives.

A disappointed bachelor has said that some time after marriage a man's wife would be a surprise to him. Never was a greater libel. Beauty preserved and grace retained can never lose their charm or yield to the ravages of time. The preservation of our bodies in their original healthy perfection and comeliness is a sacred duty. Every young mother who will faithfully carry out the directions given with each bottle of "Mother's Friend" will never lose figure or complexion. The dainty bud will mature into the blooming rose, and old age will find her blessing the day she first used "Mother's Friend." Bradfield Reg. Co., Atlanta, Ga. Sold by all druggists.

Have You Asthma?

Dr. R. Schiffmann, of Paul, Minn., will mail a trial package of Schiffmann's Asthma Cure free to any sufferer. Give instant relief in worst cases, and cures where others fail. Name this paper and send address.